

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 6-15 are pending in the present application, claims 2, 4 and 5 having been cancelled herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 5 and 9-12 were allowable over the prior art of record. Various rejections of the other claims were presented in view of various prior art. In view of the amendments placing claims 5 and 9 in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that the grounds of rejection are no longer applicable.

In addition to placing claims 5 and 9 in independent form, including all the limitations of the claims from which they depend, claims 10, 11 and 12 have been amended so as to depend from either claim 8 or claim 9. Further, claim 13 has been amended to recite that it depends from one of claim 1, claim 8 or claim 9. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims present no new issues requiring further consideration or search because they do not change the combination recited in the claims in any broadening way. In particular, since claims 10-13 were previously dependent from claim 8, and claim 9 includes the limitations of claim 8, adding the dependency from claim 9 to claims 10-13 does not add further issues that

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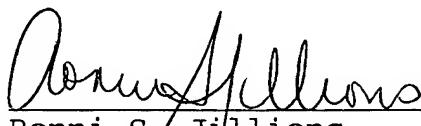
would require a new search, since claim 9 previously depended from claim 8.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record and entry of the proposed amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that upon entry of the proposed amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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